

Minutes FOJRP  
September 14, 2008  
Annual Retreat at Maureen Egan's House

In attendance: Molly Wray, Mary Helen, Maureen Egan, Betsy Slade, Gay, Richard Taranto, Charles Price, Ralph White

**1. George Wickham reported on the status of the incorporation and the request for 501(c)(3) status.**

Bottom line is that after we choose officers and directors, I will get final state incorporation paperwork from Jamie Canup and have it for signature at our next meeting.

Then we will apply to IRS for non profit status. To help with the application we will be able to get help from an attorney at the AGs office (Al ).

To get the ball rolling on the application, we will begin assembling the financial and other info needed.

**2. Charles Price reported on the status of the conservation easement.**

DCR is now on board to hold conservation easement -- great news; other likely co-holders are Capital Region Land Conservancy and Richmond Recreation and Parks Foundation.

There may be additional easement holders; Charles would like to see the Friends be an easement holder, but that would require us to have received our non-profit status.

Charles thinks that 7 of 9 of counsel will likely support the conservation easement; this would make it veto proof.

**3. Molly Wray reported on the endowment.**

Current balance \$8,960.79

Goal is to raise \$100,000 ;interest would be used only for the park's protection, education, and catastrophic recovery

The Friends board will manage the endowment; we will also seek "Honorary Trustees." Several possible names were discussed for this role.

**4. Ralph Report**

Ralph can make sign for dump trailer to show that the Friends gave it.

Ralph wants new business cards made that have our address. I'll check with Wythken and get more made.

Nathan will be leaving next spring to start a trail building business

Ralph wants us to ask City to change personnel policy to hire and train a replacement for Nathan before Nathan leaves; otherwise there will be a huge gap. Ralph needs a one-month overlap. We should write letter to the city administration.

Director has said that there would be an electrical connection to the Pumhouse this year. But progress has been slow. Electricity will allow for some needed improvements, including a wheel chair ramp (and possibly lead paint abatement). Maureen will write a letter on this.

Ralph wants better access to the James River Park, especially by use of public transit, and better signage. Bus routes and stops may need to be altered. Announcements on buses could also alert riders by loudspeaker that a particular stop has access to the park.

Ralph would like to see the creation of a walkway over the Vepco Levee where 4 sections are missing -- one on the south side and three on the north side. The project would involve the following steps: secure existing structure, fill in missing sections, and add a railing.

Ralph thanked the Friends for the work done directing traffic at the Pony Pasture parking area. There was a lengthy discussion of what worked and didn't work, how the process evolved, the desirability of an official city presence, lack of availability of police presence (except for patrols), institution of a shuttle service (which JR Pope supports). There is the need for someone to take on the responsibility of organizing the effort for next year.

Photographers' tour and fishing tour brochures of the park are close to being finished. Ralph wants money to publish them. They will be sold for \$2.

Ralph wants to create a DVD of park areas and activities; 60 – 120 seconds on each of the different activities. Ralph is looking for help in assembling this project.

Ralph is going to ask Warren Foster if he would like to join the board.

Ralph is interesting in having the Lumpkin's Jail/Negro Burial Ground site added to the park. It is not directly connected to the river, but no one else is taking care of it. It is part of slave trail.

Unofficially, the JRP crew takes care of the walkway on the 14<sup>th</sup> street bridge.

Pipeline trail should become part of JRP. Ralph hopes it will be. It includes amazing viewing, recreation, and access opportunities.

Ralph wants better use of small businesses along river, though not in the park, for example, canal boat rides downtown. In the river near Rocketts, city should allow the mooring of barge for food sales and dining.

There may be a Pumphouse tour in late October or early November before closing down for the season. Maybe Sat., Nov. 1 or Sun Nov 2.

Where do we want more signage in the park and publications for the park? Ralph has a series of signs he wants for Belle Isle. Molly wants a sign at Pony Pasture warning swimmers to get out of way of kayakers.

#### **5. Mary Helen reported on finances:**

\$15,988.15 was in our account as of the end of June.

Maureen will send a reminder email to non-renewing members.

#### **6. Scenic Byway**

City has approved the concept of scenic drives; after discussion, we will ask Winnie to keep us posted and to write the letter as requested by Kathy G.

#### **7. Adopt-a-Road**

Maureen: Waiting to hear....

#### **8. Pumphouse Art Project**

Maureen: we should work with Art 180 to do murals on the windows at the Pumphouse; she estimates a cost of \$1,000 for supplies; maybe we can get a grant.... Ralph and JR would have to approve this project.

We voted to support the project up to \$1,000 subject to our approval of renderings of the panels.

#### **9. List of Challenges and Successes**

Dump trailer  
Parking lot management at pony pasture  
Endowment committee formation and work  
Outreach to Hispanic community

#### **10. New Business**

Ralph reported on the proposed renovation of Reedy Creek park office. The budget shrunk from \$300K to \$70K, so Ralph doesn't think it's worth doing. Instead, he says they should just caulk, weatherize, and add some insulation.

There is a question as to whether we will continue to get a share of Passages money once we become a 501(c)(3). Yes for 2007 - 2008, but no promises after that.

Annual Meeting -- Consider finding a less busy weekend.

Bus Trip -- as part of fundraising effort, possibly in April 09

Consider regular visits to City Council to explain what we are doing and have done.

Compile list of long and short term goals

Next Meeting -- 6:00 pm on October 15 Wednesday at visitors center.